

CTB-HK-AD39001

~~TOP SECRET SENSITIVE~~

OCT 23 AM 2 11

TOP SECRET SENSITIVE 230456Z OCT 72 VIA CAS CHANNELS (BUNKER)
FROM: HENRY A. KISSINGER SAIGON 0230 FLASH
TO: THE WHITE HOUSE, EXCLUSIVELY EYES ONLY FOR GENERAL HAIG
HAK TO 51 OCTOBER 23, 1972

PLEASE PASS THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE FOR ME TO HABIB:

1. YOU SHOULD KNOW THAT WE HAVE ENCOUNTERED PROFOUND PSYCHOLOGICAL RESISTANCE HERE, WHICH HAS TRANSLATED ITSELF INTO REFUSAL TO SIGN CURRENT DRAFT AGREEMENT PRIOR TO NOVEMBER 7. IT IS NOT REPEAT NOT CLEAR WHETHER THERE ARE UNDERLYING MATTERS OF TRUE SUBSTANCE WHICH WOULD FRUSTRATE A SIGNATURE EVEN AFTER THAT DATE.

2. WE ARE CONSEQUENTLY MOVING AHEAD ON ASSUMPTION THAT WE WILL HAVE SIGNATURE SHORTLY AFTER NOVEMBER 7 AND THEREFORE PUBLIC COMMENT DURING NEXT TWO WEEKS BECOMES EXTREMELY IMPORTANT. I WILL HOLD PRESS CONFERENCE ON MY RETURN TO WASHINGTON WHICH WILL PROVIDE GENERAL LINE TO BE FOLLOWED BY ALL U.S. OFFICIALS. YOU WILL RECEIVE TEXT AND WILL REACT ACCORDINGLY.

3. IT IS AT SAME TIME EXTREMELY IMPORTANT THAT YOUR CLIENT REFRAIN FROM ANY PUBLIC REACTIONS, ESPECIALLY IN CONCERT WITH SAIGON, WHICH WILL MAKE OUR TASK MORE DIFFICULT. HE SHOULD HAVE ADEQUATELY GUILTY CONSCIENCE ABOUT HIS SHABBY PERFORMANCE RE ENHANCE PLUS SO THAT YOU HAVE APPROPRIATE LEVERAGE TO KEEP HIM ON EVEN KEEL. PLEASE REPORT IMMEDIATELY IF YOU FORSEE ANY DIFFICULTIES, USING THIS CHANNEL.

WARM REGARDS.

~~TOP SECRET SENSITIVE~~

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C05142107

ON-FILE NSC RELEASE INSTRUCTIONS
APPLY

State Dept. review completed